

KENNY HUNTER SCULPTURE COURT



Horse and Rider (Ancient Model)

SECONDARY LEARNING RESOURCE



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This resource is about Scottish artist Kenny Hunter and will support learners and teachers in the classroom, our venues and at home. To access this and other resources via Google Classroom, use the code: [zv77jixh](#)

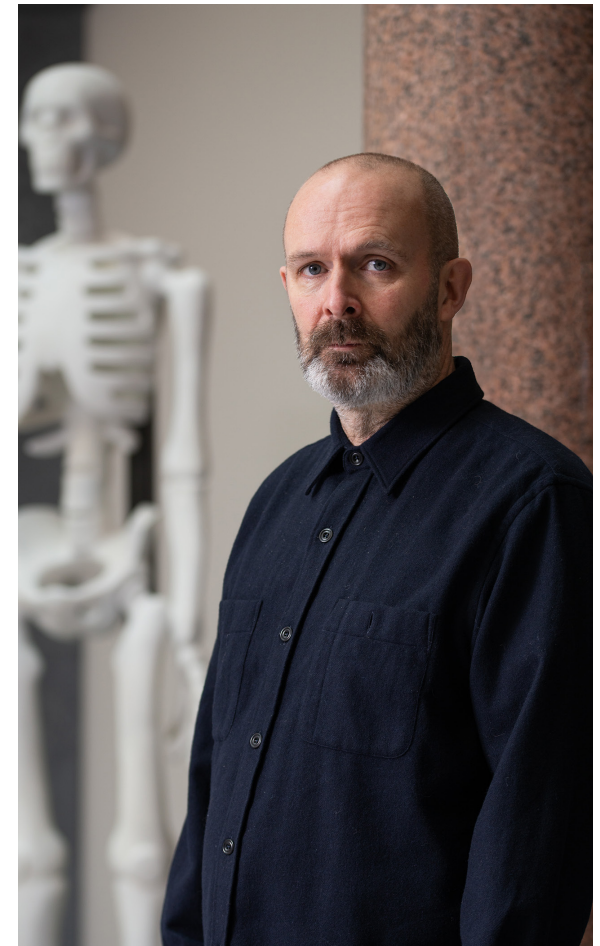
WHO IS KENNY HUNTER

Kenny Hunter was born in Edinburgh in 1962. He graduated from Glasgow School of Art in 1987 and then studied classical sculpture at the British School in Athens. He subsequently moved back to Scotland and works at Edinburgh College of Art.

Hunter has said that the aim of his art is to question certainties and stereotypes. Public monuments are loaded with meaning, referencing social and political history. Hunter himself has created many public sculptures including *Citizen Firefighter*, 2001, outside Glasgow's Central Station; *Youth with split apple*, 2005 for Kings College, Aberdeen; and *iGoat*, 2010 in Spitalfields, London. With *Sculpture Court*, his new exhibition for Aberdeen Art Gallery, Hunter wants to start a conversation with a diverse public audience. By discussing what monuments are for, what they represent and who they serve, we can then consider their future role in towns and cities.



You can watch Kenny Hunter talk about his work [here](#)



Kenny Hunter - Sculptor



UNIVERSAL MONUMENT (TO A BETTER WORLD THAT NEVER SHOWED UP)

For this artwork Hunter drew inspiration from the studies of bones made by the British sculptor Henry Moore. Moore's observation of shape and the process of abstraction can be seen in Hunter's simplified skeleton.

The neutral stance and structural support of the bones add to the skeleton's presence, as if he is quietly standing sentry in the sculpture court.



Discussion

What are your initial thoughts on this figure? Why do you think Hunter has simplified some of the shapes in the skeleton? How can you tell if the proportions are anatomically correct? Why do think Hunter has made it entirely white?



Explore

You can discover Henry Moore's bone sketches and sculptures [here](#) to see the influence in Kenny Hunter's skeleton sculpture.

You can also see *Family Group No 3 (Angle)* by Henry Moore in Gallery 7, *Exploring Art* as well and on eMuseum [here](#). In Gallery 7, *Exploring Art* you can see how artists develop ideas in their studios. Use this [helpful video](#) to help you look closely at the artworks.

You can watch Kenny Hunter talking about his work from his art studio [here](#). Look closely and you'll see the skeleton in the video.

Activity

To draw Kenny Hunter's skeleton, you can use [this handy video](#) to get the proportions correct first, before sketching in the bones. You could develop your drawing into a 3D skeleton using clay, wire or even [rolled paper](#).



Universal Monument (To a Better World that Never Showed Up)



ELEPHANT (DIVIDED)

This artwork is the original fibreglass resin sculpture from which an iron version was cast and installed in Glasgow's Bellahouston Park in 2015. The park was the location for the famous 1938 British Empire Exhibition, and *Elephant (Divided)* addresses the legacies of the British Empire and the Industrial Revolution.

Hunter's fibreglass resin version shows the manufacturing process, such as lifting eyes which are used to move the sculpture, seams which show how it was cast in sections, and traces of the runner system which guided molten iron into the mould.



Discussion

Why do you think Hunter called this sculpture *Elephant (Divided)*? Why do you think Hunter chose an elephant to comment on the British Empire and the Industrial Revolution? What is your opinion about this sculpture? Maybe you have some thoughts on the elephant's scale, posture, style or colour?



Explore

The iron version of this sculpture includes scrap metal from India and South Africa that was used to build locomotives in Glasgow. You can read more about it [here](#).

To understand the massive impact of the British Empire, it is important to know about British Colonialism and the Industrial Revolution. Here are some short videos that easily explain this complicated history

- [18th and 19th Industrial Revolution](#)
- [Early British Empire](#)
- [Late British Empire](#)

You can see examples of objects manufactured for the trade of sugar and spices in Gallery 6, Feasting. This display highlights how everyday objects can have a global story to tell.

Activity

What object or animal would you choose to start a discussion about the British Empire and the Industrial Revolution? You could sketch or take a photo of an object in Aberdeen Art Gallery or on the eMuseum. Then discuss in a group how you would make an artwork like one of Kenny Hunter's sculptures. What materials would you use? What size would it be? Would it have any colour? Where would you like it displayed in Aberdeen?



Elephant (Divided)



BONFIRE

Most classical sculptures are very static and white but in this artwork Kenny Hunter has used vivid colour to suggest the rapid movement of flames. Fire symbolises the early development of humankind which has led to our capacity to create mass destruction and the climate crisis we face today.



Discussion

Learning to use fire was a primal need of survival for our ancestors but, like any powerful force, it can be used for good and still cause great harm to our planet. What do you think are the pros and cons to human development? How do you think we can combat the climate crisis and limit destruction to our planet.



Explore

Take a look around [Gallery 16, Shoreline](#) to explore the natural beauty of our coastline. Then visit [Gallery 15, Paradise Lost](#) to reflect on the human impact on our world. What object or artwork do you like most? Is there one that you think links well to Kenny Hunter's Bonfire?

Activity

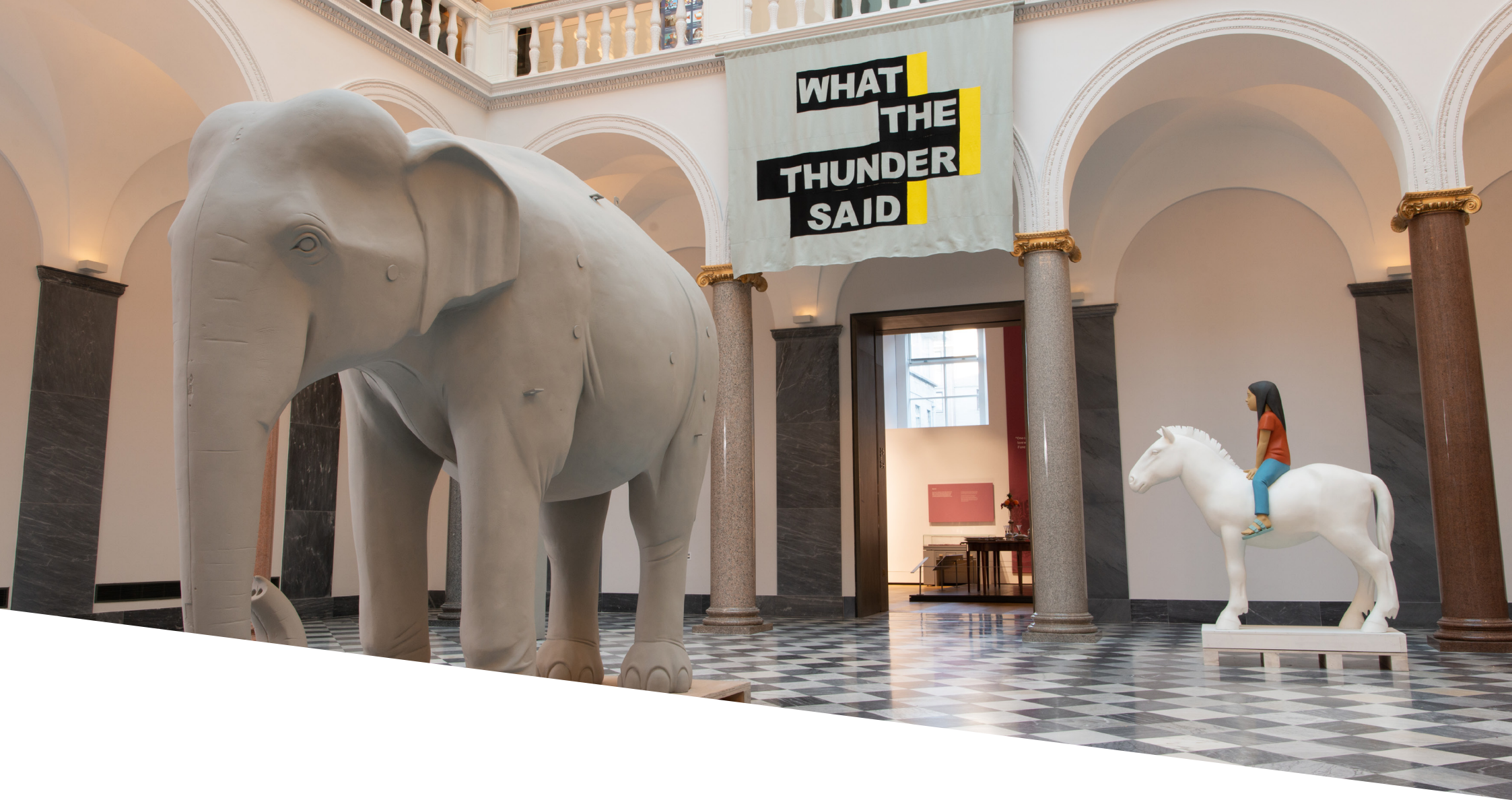
You can learn more about our coastline and energy sources by visiting Aberdeen Maritime Museum, where you can see a scale model of an oil platform and get up close to the remotely operated vehicles that explore the underwater environment.

For more information and to book a free of charge session contact the Learning team at AAGMLearning@aberdeencity.gov.uk



Bonfire





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